

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claim 12 is newly presented. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Morz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,982,172). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 10 recites, a waveguide interconnection apparatus that includes a first housing having a first waveguide and a second housing having a second waveguide connected to the first waveguide. Claim 10 further recites that a signal propagated from the first waveguide to the second waveguide is reflected to have a predetermined angle when it passes an interconnecting portion of the waveguides, and both the inner connecting portion and the outer connecting portion between the first waveguide and the second waveguide is curved. The Office Action alleges that the waveguide interconnection apparatus in Morz Figure 4 discloses these features of claim 1.

As recited in claim 10, the present invention specifies that the inner connecting portion and the outer connecting portion that connect the first waveguide and the second waveguide be curved. Morz, on the other hand, requires the wave guide section itself to be curved. See, for example, Column 3, lines 6-34. Requiring a curved waveguide section is not the same as requiring a curved inner connecting portion and a curved outer connecting portion to connect the waveguides. Accordingly, Morz fails to teach or even suggest that the curvature is achieved by a means other than curving the waveguides themselves.

Claim 11 is believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 10 by virtue of its dependence upon claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Barnett, et al. in view of Albee (U.S. Patent No. 3,686,596) or Yuanzhu (U.S. Patent No. 6,552,636 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that both the inner connecting portion and the outer connecting portion between the first waveguide and the

second waveguide curved. Albee does not disclose or suggest that both surfaces of the waveguide bend be curved. In Albee, the bend in the outer surface of the waveguide is curved, while the bend in the inner surface is angular. The bend of the inner surface is achieved through discrete sections, connected to form corners that create the waveguide bend. See, for example, Column 3, lines 15-35. The present invention is different, in that it requires both the inner and outer bends in the waveguide interconnection apparatus to be curved, and it does not require any angular bend sections. Thus, there is no disclosure in Albee and claim 1-11 are not obvious.

Yuanzhu does not teach or suggest combining two curved portions with the waveguide. Yuanzhu actually refers to an inner bent portion and an angled bent cavity rather than a curved portion. Thus, Yuanzhu is different from the present invention in that it does not suggest combining two curved portions, as required by the claims of the present invention. In addition, Yuanzhu actually teaches away from curved portions. See, for example, Column 2, lines 52-62. Since the principle of operation in Yuanzhu is different from the present invention, claims 1-11 are not obvious.

Claims 2-9 and 11 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 10 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

New Claims

Claim 12 is newly presented, fully supported by the originally filed specification and believed allowable over the prior art of record.

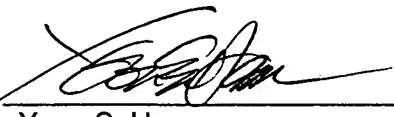
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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